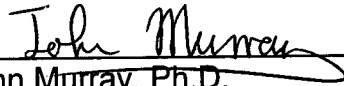


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Claims 27 – 46 are pending. Claims 27 – 30 are withdrawn from consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: FEB 12, 2002 .

  
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**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE.**

In a preferred design, depicted in Fig. [4] 7, a metal coil antenna 30 is wrapped around the flow cell 32 of a flow cytometer 29. The transponders 12 pass through the flow cell 32, and are decoded by the scanner device 27. The signal carrying the data sent from the transponders 12 is amplified by a first amplifier 34 and processed by the scanning device 27. As the transponders 12 are decoded, fluorescence from the transponders 12 is detected and analyzed by the flow cytometer 29.